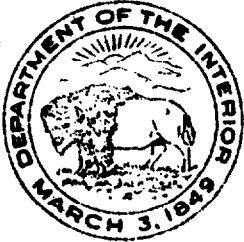


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release To PM's, MAY 17, 1956

FISHERY ADVISORY GROUP RECOMMENDS CONTINUANCE OF AID PROGRAM

The American Fishery Advisory Committee, at its third meeting in Long Beach, Calif., on May 1 and 2, went on record for the continuance of a balanced program of technological, economic, market development, and biological research and services through an enlarged and extended Saltonstall-Kennedy Act as the best way to aid the domestic fishing industry, Under Secretary of the Interior Clarence A. Davis stated today.

Established under the terms of the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act which was passed in 1954 to promote increased production and marketing of domestic fishery products, this group meets periodically to advise the Secretary of the Interior on the various research and marketing activities which the Fish and Wildlife Service is conducting under the terms of the Act.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Wesley A. D'Ewart who is chairman of the Advisory Committee served as presiding officer during the two-day meeting. In his opening remarks Secretary D'Ewart reaffirmed the Department's determination to give all possible aid to the industry.

A report on accomplishments since the last meeting in September 1955 was presented by Fish and Wildlife Service Director John L. Farley, A. W. Anderson, Chief, Branch of Commercial Fisheries, and Dr. L. A. Walford, Chief, Branch of Fishery Biology.

The Committee commented favorably on the program so far undertaken but urged expansion of the activities through continuance of the Act and the provision of a substantial increase in the funds which are available annually. At present the limit of expenditures in any one year is \$3 million.

The Committee discussed a number of broad problems on production and marketing of domestic fishery products revolving essentially around two major points.

First, the problem of how to increase fish production to keep abreast of population growth so as to maintain or increase the present per capita consumption of fish came in for considerable attention. The Committee recommended market studies to determine areas of low consumption, as well as promotional campaigns, development of new products, and improvement in quality to aid in raising the present per capita consumption figure of about 10 pounds. Emphasis on exploration of new fishery resources and the development of more efficient gear to increase production was also stressed.

Secondly, the Committee also discussed the need for a well-rounded long-range program of biological research directed toward understanding the causes of fluctuations in fishery stocks in order to explain them, to predict their occurrence, and to use such understanding for the benefit of the fishery industries.

While in Long Beach the members of the Committee had an opportunity to visit the world's largest tuna cannery at Terminal Island where they observed tuna canning, from the unloading of the vessels to the finished product.

The 15 members of the Committee who attended the meeting were: Moses B. Pike, Eastport, Maine; James S. Carlson, Boston, Mass.; J. Richards Nelson, Madison, Conn.; David Hart, Cape May, New Jersey; Harold R. Bassett, Salisbury, Md.; Harry F. Sahlman, Fernandina Beach, Florida; Leon S. Kenney, St. Petersburg, Florida; Alphonse J. Wegmann, Pass Christian Isles, Miss.; Lawrence W. Strasburger, New Orleans, La.; Arthur Sivertson, Duluth, Minn.; Donald P. Loker, Terminal Island, California; Arthur H. Mendonca, San Francisco, California; Thomas F. Sandoz, Astoria, Oregon; Mark L. Edmunds, Garibaldi, Oregon; Lawrence C. Calvert, Seattle, Washington.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held in New Orleans, La., in January 1957.

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